

HOUSE OF LORDS
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is HOUSE OF LORDS, a zeen by, for and about publishers and publishing, GMs and GMing. It runs no games, and is now available to anyone. It is composed primarily of the thoughts of its publisher, and a great many letters on topics relevant to publishing a dipzeen in the modern world. Most importantly, this is a forum for those with experience to share the wealth.

This zeen also exists as a vehicle for several subzeens, when they wish to put in an appearance. We have KINDER, KUCHE, UND KIRCHE -- an infozeen of the US/OGP Orphan Service -- by Scott Hanson with a little bit by me. Questions on KKK should go to Scott or me. Also, GOING STEADY -- on the publisher's handbook -- by Mark Luedi, has been in here once or twice. That one appears to be dormant. See Mark's comments on that topic later in this issue for more information.

You can get this zeen any number of ways, if you are a publisher or GM. 1) Send me money or stamps, and I will credit your account one issue per dollar. Yes, this is another increase. Life's rough. This is obviously the least desirable method. 2) Set up a straight trade deal. 3) Write! Anything that gets published here will earn the writer from 1 to 3 free issues of HOL. Most will earn two. NonGMpubbers have only one method of receiving HOL: pay \$2.50 per issue. Think that's unreasonable? I do too, but I also feel that since last issue cost me over \$2 apiece, it's justifiable. Sorry to puncture the elite aura, kids, but I just couldn't stand the aggravation any more.

The 1983 Dipdom Census is completed, and now available from me for \$1. It contains quite a few addresses, some statistical trivia, a bunch of acknowledgements, and an omission or two. A much better effort than last year, I think. For those of you receiving a page of the "H" listing with this, well, it should be easy enough to figure out.

(oops - Feb)

Scott Hanson is running a freshman zeen poll. Deadline is pretty soon (mid-March?), This zeen is eligible, for what it's worth.

Michael Mills is running a second PDO relief auction to raise money for ~~M&M~~ Dipdom services. The first auction was a great success -- fun and profitable, too! Now is the time to clean out your garage, and put it up for auction. Contact Mike at 26 Laurel Rd, Sloatsburg, NY 10974 for further information.

This is somewhat of a split issue. You will note that several topics are "missing." Well, they're not...just held over. I want to get something in the mail, and to wait until I finished the whole zeen could be a while. This is the first time I've been home for four days in a row since early December. Ugh.

Also, the material I'm holding over is more "controversial" than I want to have in here on a regular basis, and I wanted it clearly segregated from the truly interesting stuff. If I'm home for any length of time, issue #6 may be out by the end of February. I wish.

Randolph Smyth Department: I still have not received a copy of FOL SI FIE.

On we go...

OLD BUSINESS

HOUSE OF LORDS - THE CONCEPT

***** (Paul Rauterberg) HOL #4 came today -- another good one. Some of your responses to subbers' comments do seem abrasive, as Dave Carter noted last issue. They are designed that way in order to elicit further responses, right? For instance, you seemed to defend Peery's tax proposal in the face of subber criticism, yet in the end you joined the critics yourself.

((My comments are designed to expand upon or clarify a point. Certainly, I'm not being abrasive just for the sport of it. Simply put, I will try to oppose any point to the best of my ability if I feel it can lead to something interesting. I'm taking the position that any broadening of viewpoint is good. Even though I may not always reach this goal, the attempt may be interesting in itself. The less you try to pin down my actual opinion on a topic, the less headaches you will have. When I have to preach on my beliefs on a topic, I'll try to make it clear when I'm doing so by "writing in" like the rest of you do. I don't think this zeen is the place to be preaching my point of view, and must fail if I use it in that manner.

((I suppose I may as well run out the page on this subject. HOL exists because I think it can be used as a forum for the productive exchange of ideas. With that in mind, I'd like you all to be as honest as you are able in writing in. I've already caught/passed over some blatant, self serving lies written in to this zeen. I don't appreciate them, as they're counterproductive, at best. We're all grown-ups here, and I try to run this zeen in a non-judgemental fashion (I oppose everybody). There is no reason, save vanity, to tell fictions here. If you must be vain, do it on your own time, not mine, and not the readers of HOL. We deserve better.))

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*****(Phill Cooper) Thank you for sending HOUSE OF LORDS #4. If it were possible, I would be one of the non-publisher/Gamesmasters to subscribe.

((And now you can -- if you are willing to cover my costs totally. Dipzeens are not necessarily cheap!))

*****(Mark Luedi) Basic report for this month is that there won't be a GOING STEADY. I've been travelling, and have not met a typewriter. Next time for sure. Keep up the good work with HOL! A two month (or 1½) schedule for it seems to be a good idea. Don't like the color though. That green hurts my eyes, almost.

((Yes, the green does grab your attention, doesn't it? The schedule must depend on my travel schedule for the most part. If I'm not home, it can't get done. GS next time, OK.))

*****(AT Pearson) Thanks for the sample of HOUSE OF LORDS, and apologies for calling it by that other name. It seems to be a very informative zeen based on the sample of November and seeing an earlier issue while I was visiting Caruso and Byrne. I sure wish this had been around when I started publishing, but who knows, I was never one to respond to good advice or suggestions.

I notice thereis still talk about a new Publishers' Handbook. I found the old book very valuable when I started publishing. This isn't to say a new one shouldn't be done, it should; but a new handbook with update materials could prove a great resource to those considering publication. I borrowed a copy of the handbook from John Michalski and made a copy of it for me. I assume Michalski is still lending his copy, but if any one wants to see the old one, I'll try to dig up my copy from somewhere in the house.

As to your price increase, I can see through your transparent ploy. I ask for a sample and you raise the price from \$0.35 to a dollar. Have you no shame? Now that I think about it, I remember you don't have any shame, so forget the question. I think the new price is much more realistic, and I have enclosed a few meager bucks to get the next few issues.

As to a future topic, I would like to see a good discussion of the various hobby services, why and how they work, how much support they need, and why they deserve funds from hobby sources. As you might remember from last year's Dipcon Society meeting, this was an issue that was skirted and never directly addressed. Everyone seems to have an opinion on this subject, and most publishers and GMs financially support one or more of these services either directly or indirectly. Also I expect this issue to come up again at this year's Dipcon Society meeting. Are only PBM services worthy of support? Should con receipts be used for FTF type services since these cons are FTF meetings, and should the postal hobby support its own services? If this topic is one for your future issues, I have plenty of comments, some which might even be valid.

((Since this seems to relate well with the Diptax and Cost topics we've already gone into, Services does seem to be an ideal topic. It also seems that pubbers are always the ones running the services.

((I'd love to see a copy of the old handbook, if you could send me one. I've never seen one.))

*****(Fred Davis) Neither the time nor energy to comment on any other points. This HOL is just too big to cover everything. It would be better to concentrate on fewer topics per issue, especially if you're going to continue to publish monthly.

((Hopefully, the longer publishing interval will permit you to comment more fully in the future. I will try to stick to the one-new-topic-a-zeen schedule though, though I may have occasional "housecleaning" issues if they continue to be so huge.))

*****(Lu Henry) Congratulations on HOUSE OF LORDS #4. I'll omit any additional kudos and applause since everyone knows that game masters and zeen publishers can't stand to get any praise or expressions of thanks from their "loyal" players and readership..

((So true.))

I could care less whether non-publishers/GMs (actual or potential) are given the opportunity to subscribe to, read, or even write to HOUSE OF LORDS. It isn't who they are; it's what they have to say that counts. On many of the topics already discussed, non-pubbers/GMs will have little or no interest unless they are contemplating diving into the pool. On other topics, they probably have a great deal of interest, the only relevant questions being whether their insights are greater or lesser than the pubbers/GMs and to what degree you as the publisher of HOL wish to take a loss in putting out the publication -- \$0.35 per copy with \$0.54 postage is not a road to fiscal soundness. I won't beat the dead horse any more except to offer a few comments on "elitism."

With all due respect, I don't think game pubbers/GMs are a very elite crowd, unless one takes a very self-important attitude towards the services we perform or unless one confers upon the field of multi-player

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gaining by mail an importance no one else does. We could all stop publishing/GMing and the world would certainly not come to an end. No new mental hospitals would have to be built for the gamers left without their monthly Dip-fix.* If we are "elite", we're either kidding ourselves or we're talking about "big fish" in a damn "small pool." And although a ten-year old probably could understand what it takes to publish and GM properly, I doubt if I would want to read what they come up with. (Of course, I also don't care to read what a lot of 20, 30, and 40 year olds come up with in their zeens.)

We're elite the way catchers were elite in my days of unorganized sandlot baseball. Someone had to do it, and only a few were stupid enough to try.

* some might have to be built for a few publishers deprived of their fora for uninformed political comment, personal attacks, juvenile humor, and self boosting.

((As you may be able to tell from the first page, I'll be trying harder to wallow toward the elusive goal of "Fiscal soundness." Sorry if it makes some folks unhappy, but I just lost way too many \$\$ last issue for even me to justify to myself. The restricted readership was intended to cut down on the subber list and in the process save everybody some \$\$). Guess it didn't work.

((I agree with your comments about "elitism." I mean, what's the big deal?))

***** (Scott Hanson) HOL is getting better and better, as more people respond. Of course, it will get bigger and bigger, but that's your problem, not mine.

((You got that right. I like hearing from folks I wouldn't hear from otherwise, and would possibly not write anywhere else about the topics we cover here.))

***** (Larry Peery) This was, I thought, the best HOL yet. Thanks for the Con handbook plug.

HOL seems to have found its niche. The only thing you'll have to be careful of, I'm sure you know, is that you don't let it become a drag for yourself or too much of a sounding board for a particular hobby clique. Or is this all there is of us? Too much inter-breeding is bad for the race, they tell me.

Anyway, I find HOL interesting, informative and entertaining; something I can't say for many zeens in the hobby. I mentioned that I thought HOL was much more important to the hobby than RETAL and I think it is proving to be so....

So...you should try hot pink paper if you want to cause a fuss....

But don't overdo it or you'll get bored. Or we will.

((Did you get any response to the handbook plug? Actually, I doubt that this will become a drag for me. I am much more concerned that this will become a drag for the people who write in, and that there are some people who aren't grown up enough to tell the truth in what they do write. This zeen is meant to be a sounding board for all the various cliques, and I will continue to follow that policy.

((I think your comments on "importance" are a bit silly. Dipdom got along fine without HOL and RETAL, and it gets along fine with them. You'd have quite a time convincing me that anything in Dipdom is truly important. Useful, maybe, but not important.

((I haven't been able to find any astrobrite pink paper. I'm still looking.))

***** (Russell Sipe) I think HOL is great! As a fairly new pubber (one year) who is not really in the mainstream of PBM Dipdom, HOL has been very educational for me. I guess I am ready to take the plunge and throw in my two cents.

First, an advertisement: under the discussion of HOL:THE CONCEPT in HOL#4 Steve Langley mentions that "soon will come electronic zeens..." Of course, electronic zeens are already here! For the past 10 months I have published THE ARMCHAIR DIPLOMAT, an online Dippy zeen available to Compuserve and The Source Dippy players.. By the time you put out HOL#5 there may be a second PBEM zeen on The Source (Don Patrick). Doug Beyerlein is coming by this week to get a demo on PBEM for the purpose of going online. Wes Ives is getting players together for a game on his home system. I think a discussion of PBEM will be a required subject in HOL sometime next year when the electronic end of the hobby begins to make itself felt.

((I'm glad that you find HOL educational. Is there any particular way that you've found it to be so?

((PBEM is definitely a possibility for a future topic. I see it as a great way to play Dip, but maybe a bit too impersonal for electronic zeens to surpass their standard, USP"S" delivered, cousins. Am I wrong?))

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*****(Jim Bumpas) Elitism: I've no problem with your intention to limit HOL to pubbers. But you might let the "pubbers" define themselves and save yourself a lot of time making standards and enforcing them. I don't think this makes you, or HOL, "elitist."

Pubbing: I agree with Steve Langley. Pubbing will become increasingly electronic. The LIB has never been a very difficult zeen to publish, as I've never had much in the way of articles or letters. Most call it a "warehouse zeen." But since the ATARI has been brought into the act, it takes less than half the time it used to. The BBS (Bulletin Board System) even reduces time further for the moves which are sent to the ATARI over the phone lines.

A pubber's handbook should include time and dollarcost estimates for various methods of publishing to let the prospective pubber have some ideas in these areas. The Fred Davis guide has some good information for new pubbers.

((The ATARI really speeds things up by that much? What is it that makes the big difference, adjudications?

((Do you believe that advances will be made primarily in PBEM warehouse zeens, "full service" zeens, or both equally?))

*****(Ed Wrobel) Davis: Fred would be horrified. I have a plastic green box with address cards and a cardboard black box with stamps. There's a briefcase with some folders in it, two small in-baskets, a Webster's and a Rodale. I use water-based white-out but I have a fancy typewriter that's smarter than Eric Kane's SAT scores and, in a fit of technology, I bought some 2-sided tape. And everybody gets a commemorative, not just out of towners. I also write on conference maps in pencil and erase it. It's a good thing I don't gamesmaster.

((Your installation is a lot fancier than mine. Mine includes a green box with address cards, a kitchen table, a den couch, a lot of floor space, and about half a dozen boxes in the garage, not to mention a real life filing cabinet. And I always use commemoratives too, except when I get regular issues as part of a sample request. Then American Express gets the regulars.))

*****(Ronald Brown) Just received HOL#4 and, I must say, I like it better all the time. It's a fascinating forum for discussing pubbing problems, woes, solutions, etc. I do hope you are keeping many copies of back issues so that when newcomers decide to take the plunge they can get a backlog of material.

The business about Canadians is really off the subject, I think, but you've brought it up and I'd like to answer.

As for my statement that when I was Coordinator of the CDO I could appoint a BNC, an important item is missing. The Coordinator of the CDO can appoint custodians for Canada. We use the same BNC and MNC as the Americans for convenience, but we do not have to, any more than the Europeans do. I doubt that that provision in our constitution will ever be called upon, but it is there in case there is a royal screw up in the USA. If there were no MNC or BNC or several claimants to the throne, at least the CDO Coordinator can appoint someone to act for Canadian zeens. He could never appoint the American BNC or MNC as some are suggesting I said, twisting things out of context.

This whole subject came up when Robert Sacks was giving Lee Kendter a hard time, refusing to recognize his position as MNC. I wrote Robert and told him that maybe he could refuse to recognize Lee in the USA, but, as far as the Canadian situation was concerned, Lee was the MNC -- period. I probably greatly over-reacted to Robert, but I was tired and fed up. If that's arrogance, I plead guilty.

True a single issue of Albrecht's BATTLE STATIONS costs \$1. But you can also get 12 issues for \$9 (CDN) -- which is not out of line with most zeen prices. As for his fold, he did offer to compensate those previously burned, which is about all anyone can do when he wants to correct the past. I don't see any arrogance in that.

As for Francois, well, perhaps I better not say anything, as I tend to lose my temper. Let's just say that you are justified there, okay. As for his return to pubbing, let's wait and see. After a two year absence he sent out an issue saying he would like to resume, but, as far as I know, no one has seen a follow-up issue.

I think the reason you got such a response to your remark is that it probably stunned everyone. Carter? Hutton? Smyth? Arrogant? Besides one notable exception, who may not even be pubbing, I am the only one who comes across that way at times that I know of and I, thank God, am not a majority.

((Why do you seem to have such a fixation on Canadian separatism? It's Canadian-this, American-that. Wasn't Cal White, the only Canadian BNC, a total flop in that position? I would think that the Canadian and USA Dipdoms are closely linked, or should be. Apparently, I am in the minority here. It's funny, but

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only the Canadians have objected to being called arrogant. No Americans have rushed to your defense. And after reading some of the material in the latest SNAFU!, I can definitely say that you, in particular, are irresponsible, if not arrogant. It follows.

((From SNAFU! #40, January 21, 1984:

Speaking of the census, the American one is sort of ready. Apparently it contains numerous errors and omissions, but lists about 800 people. You'll be delighted to learn that Dick Martin has decided, in his infinite wisdom, that SNAFU! does not exist, even though he got a couple free samples and a list of CDO members from me. Anyhow, the Americans need someone capable of compiling a list of names and addresses for next year, preferably one with access to a home computer to make the job easier.

((Yes, the census of USA and Canadian dippers is done. Yes, it contains about 800 people. Yes, I've gotten an issue or two of SNAFU!, and you did send me your list of CDO members. The rest of this is off the wall. You have quite a bit of nerve criticizing something you haven't even seen like this.

((Numerous errors? Have you seen 15 pages of addresses that didn't contain any errors? Some of the address lists I had to take addresses from were virtually unintelligible to begin with. It would be almost impossible for there not to be errors. I believe that all the significant ones have been corrected. Omissions? Of all the address lists I received, I am not aware of any omissions. If you are referring to my "omitting" the SNAFU! addresses, you're quite right -- you never sent them. You did send that CDO list, which I found totally useless as it contained no addresses. I have no idea where you came up with this "does not exist" nonsense, as I've never said anything of the sort. I take total exception to your last sentence. Where do you get off making statements like this? Hey, I never said we needed a new CDO coordinator while you held that position, did I? You apparently don't understand what you're talking about, or just like to shoot down things that you do not support and do not contribute to. I fail to see ANY reason for your printing the above. I think you owe me a retraction.))

*(Mark Berch) With regard to your "conditions" (HOL#4, page 6), I cannot possibly accept. I'll take them up in reverse order:

5) (either of us can terminate at any time) If either of us can terminate an arrangement like this, then no one is bound to anything, in which case we don't have any deal at all, just a bunch of words. You could inform me the day after DD comes out that you've terminated the agreement and that would be that. Or, for that matter, I could distribute the xeroxes, then tell you that I'm terminating the agreement and that would be that. What is the point of suggesting an agreement with me when I cannot rely on it because "at any time for any reason" you could terminate it? It's hard for me to take seriously a proposal that doesn't actually obligate anyone.

((I wanted this clause so that I could terminate the agreement if I felt you were abusing it. True, if you follow the other four points, there would be no cause for me to terminate. Are you married, Mark? Ever hear the term "divorce?" What you seem to be saying is that since we could get an easy "divorce," there is no reason for us to be "married." With your attitude like that, I agree.))

4) (courtesy copies of DD) You'll get this in any event, no problem here.

((Apparently there IS a problem here. I said, "You provide me with copies of whatever description you put into DD, plus anything else regarding HOL that appears in DD." You say, "No problem here." Yet in the Nov/Dec issue of DD you quote from HOL and I had to write you requesting a copy. Hardly "no problem."))

3) Why should I be obligated to do this? To begin with, it could force me to violate a confidence. This is a ludicrous requirement, telling me that I have to inform you about who I show my HOLs to. What do you think Konrad Baumeister's reaction would be if I told him that before he could show you what was in DD, that he would have to "keep me informed" and that he would have to tell me of "any responses" you had to it. If you give Konrad a response to something in DD, that's Konrad's biz, not mine. Sure, I'd be interested, but I can't require Konrad tell me. I can see your wanting this information. But I cannot see your making it a precondition.

((Why not? The only reason I would permit you to reprint this is that it may enrich HOL in some way. If you are unwilling to do this, I gain nothing, and the contributors to this zeen are the eventual losers. The bit about violating confidences is hilarious. All you need to do is say, "I'm sorry, but I cannot keep any comments on HOL in confidence," and that solves that problem. You are hardly just "showing your HOLs" in your proposal -- you're offering to send out whole copies in unlimited quantities! Would, say, Rod

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Walker approve if I wrote him asking if I could send out copies of DW in whatever form I chose? Not on your life! I don't think many pubbers would appreciate it.))

2) (charge no more than SASE) That's what I'm hoping to do, but why should I be obligated to swallow any copying costs, if there is any? Just because you do (or don't incur any) shouldn't obligate me to as well. I cannot believe how bossy you are.

((I suppose it's the ultimate compliment when Mark Berch calls you "bossy."))

1) (provide whole issues, not excerpted in any way) I have no interest in reprinting whole issues. I only intend to arrange material by topic, and I wasn't planning to cover all the topics. And except as indicated below, my plan is not to edit it, but copy all the comments on that topic.

((It would be acceptable to me if you printed whole topics, with no excerpting.))

So: nothing doing. I have been running a reprint zeen for over 6 years and never has anyone presented such conditions. It is particularly stupid because I'm not even printing it in my zeen, with its wide circulation, but just as a side project. I have no idea why you are so intent on placing all these obstacles in my way, and what's more, I don't particularly care (though I am curious). My present intentions are to go ahead and make the offer in the Nov/Dec DD. If you insist in your objections, I'll probably block out your comments (the ones in double parens), although that violates point 1 above, to avoid that issue. However, I absolutely do not accept the notion that you have the right to bar my reprinting stuff that you haven't even written.

((OK, the deal is off. All I tried to do was force some degree of responsibility on you, and you reject that. I object strenuously to your "reprinting" any of this zeen. And now that I've opened up the subber list, that's not even necessary for you to do.)

((You make a big deal about running a reprint zeen for over six years, but say that any reprints you may take from HOL would not be in that zeen, and away from public scrutiny. So what? Am I supposed to be so impressed by the longevity of DD that I give you carte blanche? I'm really annoyed at your attitude of "I am highly respected Mark Berch who has published the widely circulated reprint zeen for over six years and I can do what I want." My conditions were not that difficult to comply with (particularly regarding my change in point 1). But rather than even attempt to renegotiate my conditions, you merely choose to tell me why you plan to ignore them. And to think, this IS the DIPLOMACY hobby. Where's your politesse?))

I'm not equating "interest" with "knowledge," although possibly you are. I merely pointed out that Kathy's contribution could have been written, word for word, by someone who was neither a publisher or a GM, and thus your notion that only those who are pubbers/GMs are sufficiently informed to contribute is absurd. Since you've ignored that example, I'm giving you another one. On page 18, you ask me to describe my immense archives. You don't need to be a publisher or GM to create or describe an archives. I could have an immense archives, or be able to describe mine (or someone else's) without being either a GM or a publisher.

((Ah, but isn't it true that every person you know with what could even be termed a "moderate" archives is a pubber or GM? I can't think of any non-pubbers with a sizeable archives. And why do you make a big deal about anybody being able to describe an archives, and then not describing your own? What good does your "proving your point" do us? You've come up with two examples from 66 pages of material. Am I supposed to be impressed? What can a non-pubber say about, say, Cost? Or Polls (from the point of view of the pubber)? Or Filing Systems for pubbing and GMing? Hey, this isn't the only zeen that you can write to, you know.))

The use of asterisks is a great solution.

Your comments in double parens are often well done. I don't always agree with them, but they frequently provide a pointed challenge to the remarks made by someone. You have a real flair for this.

In your exchange with Caruso on page 2, I still say you are missing the point. You say, "I'd like my subbers/readers to be active." But you don't require that, do you? You'll permit a completely passive pubber/GM to get the zeen, but a non-pubber/GM who would have informed comments will not be getting the zeen, which contradicts your desire to have active readers. You will, also (I assume) permit GMs-who-are-not-pubbers to join in on a pubbing discussion, but will not permit non-GMs-who-are-not-pubbers to join in, which seems like a very arbitrary distinction. (By pubbers, I mean present or former.) Similarly, on page 6 you say, "I am looking not for 'right' answers, but rather different answers." Don't you understand that when you restrict the range of contributors as you have you will get a much narrower range of "different" answers.

((Yes, and I intended it that way, so what if it's "arbitrary?" If I had not been a publisher, I would never have imagined that it was like this. I never would have thought that my back would begin to hurt after

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six short hours at the typewriter...and that I had at least another 20 hours of typing and at least one sleepless night that weekend before I was finished for that month.

((No, I do not "require" my subbers to be active. All I can do is provide incentive. The best one I can think of is the high sub rate/free issues for contributors combination. I'll probably keep fiddling and fine tuning until I think this is really being done "right" -- and I don't feel that way yet.))

******(Robert Sacks) If the differences are irreconcilable and the Canadians do not view themselves as part of the Diplomacy hobby, why are they writing in HOL?

((I'd never considered the Canadian and USA Dipdoms to be so separate before this issue, nor had I ever realized that others felt this way. I'd merely considered them two subsets of a Greater Dipdom. I can only guess that they (Brown, Smyth, Carter -- a very limited sample of Canadian Dipdom) write here because they feel it is of some value to them. The same reason a USA person might write here. And I still don't think the differences are irreconcilable. Difficult, maybe, but not impossible.))

******(Konrad Baumeister) Why is it some folk insist on thinking that college students have nothing but time on their hands to be used exclusively for Diplomacy? College is hardly "ideal" for anything other than meeting people and having a great social life and blowing tremendous amounts of money. Flexible schedules: well, yes, every semester I have another schedule, but it's hardly what I'd call flexible. I have classes at set hours, and am expected to study a bit here and there. Now, I attend most of my classes most of the time, and study whenever it's absolutely necessary, and the rest of the time I spend either working (first half of semester) or pursuing a reasonably rewarding social life, all of which takes time. On a lark I may decide to go to sleep for a few hours, or maybe even eat something if I have someone to eat with and help me blow my money. Any and all time I spend on Diplomacy comes directly out of one or more of the above categories, usually the "social life" category, since the rest are all pretty well cut down to whatever the bone may be. Exam time, at least for me (since I do ridiculously little studying for finals, where I have traditionally gotten very lucky), is the most time I have all year.

Maybe I'm just unusual. For most people around here, the phrase "graduating senior" is used as a passport out of work and into the Pub, but I seem to have the busiest semester I've had at GU. I won't bother you with a rundown of obligations; suffice it to say that a 40-hour workweek really looks good by comparison right now.

Over the past few summers I have been working the usual 40-hour weeks, and found, especially this past summer, that I was able to do a tremendous amount after that "debilitating" day at the office. On a typical day, for example, I'd wake up at 7, be at work by 8, out at 5, drive to the gym, play around there until 6:30, get home and eat. That and drifting through the mail would last until 8, at which time I might meet a friend to accumulate flight hours, hit a movie, or drop by a concert. After all of this, I'd still have time to go barhopping with Paul and/or others, and crash by 2 am. Plenty, it seems to me; no way I could do all of that here at school in less than a week.

In any event, my experience in college is clearly different from yours, but then I would hardly term University of Maryland a competitive institution of higher learning, either. I suppose that if all I gave a shit about was Diplomacy, sure, I'd have boodles of time on my hands. Fact is, Diplomacy is a hobby which eats into the time I set aside for a number of other diversions which I generally enjoy much more. Ah well, it's just another habit.

As I recall, Fred Davis once said something similar, i.e. he has much more time available once he hit the 40-hour workweek than he did back in college. A matter of values, I suppose.

Sorry to take up so much time with this point; in a half-year I won't have to worry about any of this. Lots of time while I'm waiting in line at the employment agency.

((You forget that I also spent two years at Wake Forest. That school makes Georgetown look like the playground it is. If you choose to spend 40 hours a week on your reasonably rewarding social life at GU, and then comment that Dip cuts into that, well, life is rough. Working a 40 hour workweek as daddy's receptionist as a summer job is hardly debilitating, I agree. I wish I had as little as a 40 hour week. That is often not the case. On occasion, I have had 36 hour work DAYS. By "flexible" I meant that you have your 20 hours of classes a week, and can schedule your studying whenever you want. This means that you are also able to do Dip stuff when you want, except around exam time when time is really at a premium. I know you never spent a whole lot of time studying in the past during non-crucial periods -- have things changed?)

((One good thing about a regular job type week is that it helps you manage your time. Many people are poor at managing their own time (like myself), and you do end up with "more" time for Dip. I find that I have more time for Dip now, even with my heavy schedule, than I did when I took a summer totally off!))

MORE ON...HOUSE OF LORDS - THE CONCEPT

((Not long ago, I wrote Mark Berch and asked him to send me a copy of the material which he printed in DD that was derived from HOL, as he had promised he would. I also requested that he not take quotes out of context (as he did in the offending article), if he is to use material from this zeen. I felt then, and still do, that if Mark is to consider anything printed in here as "fair game" then particular of our contributors shall be justifiably reluctant to contribute in the future. With that background information, onward we go....))

*****(Mark Berch) I have been publishing a reprint zeen for 6½ years, and in that time reprinted hundreds of items. My policy has always been to send the complimentary copy of the issue or item reprinted to the writer.
A copy would go to the publisher if:

- a. The publisher himself wrote it
- b. The writer is unknown (in effect, I assume the publisher wrote it)
- c. I am commenting on the zeen per se

As you did not fit into any of those categories, you did not receive a copy. However, so that you don't feel left out, I am enclosing a copy of that editorial for you. There is nothing inconsistent with my last letter in this approach. You would have gotten a copy then under a. (your own material would have been used extensively) and c. (I would be expressing my views on HOL).

Your second point I find difficult to take seriously. When you print what people say, then that's "peaceful," but when I print the same words, then suddenly it becomes dangerous. This is carrying egotism a bit too far. I must say that this is the first time I have ever heard of someone objecting to the reprinting of material from a letter which they had not even written. You have not bothered to explain to me how my reprinting from HOL in any way "endangers" your work. If people want their letters kept in confidence, you have no business publishing them. Otherwise, what is the problem with a second audience? The notion that these quotes can be seen by a select audience but not the hobby at large is elitist gibberish. I might add that neither of the people quoted from HOL have complained to me that they did not want their HOL material to appear in DD.

I am perfectly willing to give you "respect" for your work in HOL, which has printed some very interesting letters. But I am not sworn to an oath of secrecy as to what appears there. I do not accept the notion, which I view as implicit in your stance, that the rest of the hobby is somehow not fit to hear what was said there, or that either the letter writers or HOL will be harmed by having these comments reach a wider audience.

((There you go again Mark with that "I have been publishing a reprint zeen for 6½ years" nonsense again. I am frankly surprised that you did not manage to work in your high circulation somehow. I DON'T CARE, do you understand? More than one of the readers to this zeen has barely put out 6½ issues, and they have policies, too. Even I am entitled to "policies" of my own, however arbitrary and elitist you may call them. My policy happens to be that I will do what I can to protect writers to this zeen if I can. If that happens to run contrary to your feelings, well, there are plenty of other fish in the sea -- you can go elsewhere with my blessings. I tend to expect a certain degree of responsibility here.

((I expected a copy of the article because you clearly stated that I would get one. My apologies if I misunderstood, but I believe the language is fairly clear. I do believe that I should have gotten a copy under article c., anyway, but I shall explain that in a moment.

((Yes, you understand me quite well: I believe HOL is a peaceful forum for the expression of opinions, and DIPLOMACY DIGEST (which you have published widely for 6½ years now) is not. In HOL, I present a letter (or part thereof), state my opinions (such as they are for that particular writer and letter), and leave it at that. I permit the reader to make up his own mind. Rather, I encourage it wholeheartedly. In the few DDs I have seen (this one in particular) you start with a premise and force the evidence to fit it. You take quotes and assign meanings to them -- quotes are certainly more credible than a paraphrase, and are more likely to make your case appear convincing. For instance, I can pull the following quotes by yourself out of your response: "I don't think Larry has demonstrated a pressing need for nearly that much money," and "...it may not be worth the controversy." There, now Berch is in the same boat as the others -- as well you should be, by what you have said. Why don't you? Possibly because of the theme of the article itself: "Peeribashing."

((Mark, you've really put yourself out on a limb for this one. You have accused three respectable Dipdomites of attacking another for no other reason than that they do not like him. All they did was oppose his Diptax proposal -- something you did yourself. And in the process, you managed to drag in HOL, by taking your quotes (at least two of three) from here. In so doing, you may imply that all we do here is write in "bashing" people we don't like. Now, I wouldn't want to write to a zeen like that, would you? So I believe

MORE ON...HOUSE OF LORDS - THE CONCEPT

that I should have been due a "complimentary copy" (shudder, I hate that phrase) of your article because your "Peeribashing" article comments -- indirectly, but quite clearly -- on HOL. Of course, as I was almost certain to comment negatively on your article, I can understand why you would interpret this differently.

((So you see, there is no "egotism" in my objection. I simply cannot trust you to be fair to my writers unless it suits your needs. I realize that you do not get along well with Sacks, Caruso, and Byrne, but you have no excuse to drag HOL into this as well. Please do your feuding elsewhere, and leave us out of it.

((You still seem stuck on this "elitist" nonsense. I have made my position clear on this. Please, don't be such a rigid thinker with me, I don't tolerate them well. IF I thought I could trust you to present the material presented here in an impartial fashion, and if I thought it would be good for this zeen, I would welcome your reprinting it eventually. At this time, neither of those conditions are fulfilled. I do not mind the presenting so much as the presentation you might come up with.

((If you insist on having the people complain about having their HOL material quoted in DD, please see the three letters following this. How were they to know what you were doing, did you warn them in advance? In the future, I suggest that you get PRIOR consent for any "reprinting" you may want to do. It is the responsible way to do things, after all. And Sacks seems not to have received a copy of the DD I am sure you sent him. That is your policy, right? You did send him that issue, right?

((One final note on that "Peeribashing" article: I find it interesting, Mark, which topic you discuss. Why, the whole article is supposed to be about the MOTIVES of certain people. Many times in the past you clearly state that motives do not interest you -- you seem to have no use for them. Unless, of course, they can be manufactured to fit your little side of a feud. Tsk, tsk.))

(Robert Sacks) I have heard that Mark Berch wishes to excerpt comments from HOUSE OF LORDS in his DIPLOMACY DIGEST. I would prefer that my comments in HOL (which have already been edited once) not be quoted out of context in any other journal, especially in DD which has already misrepresented me, and while I probably cannot enforce this preference, I will take public issue with anyone who misrepresents my position from HOL.

I suppose we could have expected Mark Berch to rip off and try to destroy HOL. Under your leadership, HOL has become an important instrument for hobby independence, and this is clearly not acceptable to him.

(John Caruso) HOL is a great zeen for discussing Dipdom issues. Keep up the good work.

No, I don't mind if Mark Berch prints my statements in his zeen DD, so long as there is no editing or cutting out of what I said. In other words, my whole item to be reprinted, not the parts he chooses out of one topic. Fairly simple, and quite agreeable to me -- the terms for reprinting from HOLs you listed last issue are quite acceptable to me.

(Kathy Byrne) You know that I have always supported HOL and I feel that it is very worthwhile, however I will not continue to do so if you allow Mark Berch to reprint any of my stuff in DD.

I have enough problems with Berch taking sentences out of KK. He takes one sentence out of a paragraph, it is taken totally out of context and he prints it in DD and totally misrepresents my position and misleads his readers!

I have never had this problem in HOL, as you print my letters intact, and therefore my meaning is very clear! I will not have Mark taking another opportunity to twist and distort my views. If he was publishing HOL, I would never send anything in to it. The reason being, by the time Berch gets through with me, he'll have the BNC supporting cruelty to animals!

((My apologies, readers, for the length of this little squabble. It's all very tacky, really. I was left with two choices: face the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, or to take arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing, end them. Obviously, knowing the combatants would never quit, I chose the latter. Hopefully, this is the end of it. Feel free to comment as you wish for now, but be warned that I will not allow this discussion to go on forever. And keep a reasonably cool head, too, huh? There's still a bit more to come out next issue, but this is the bulk of it.

((In case you hadn't been able to tell yet, I'm generally using the HOL:CONCEPT category, as a catch-all.

((Looks like I'll finally be able to get along to a new topic. One more letter for this one.))

(Paul Rauterberg) Possible idea -- a "clearinghouse publication," issued twice per year (?), which lists the results of all hobby polls and contests. This would spare us the tedium of reading the Runestone/Whitestonia/Marco Poll results in each and every zeen. Although I have no interest in such polls, I would support such a project just to spare most zeens that horrible commitment to a waste of space.

((I had considered printing poll results, but I don't know how that would spare everybody else. After all, my circulation is only 40. This would become just another zeen printing those boring results! Comments?))

Kinder, Küche, und Kirche

JANUARY 1984

A semi-official, semi-occasional newsletter of the US/OGP Orphan Service:
 Scott Hanson, 233 Oak Grove #306, Minneapolis MN 55403 (612)874-0082 -and-
 Dick Martin, 26 Orchard Way N, Rockville MD 20854 (301)762-1761,
 at your service.

THANKS TO MIKE MILLS AND THE PDO AUCTION....the orphan service received 15% of the proceeds, which came out to \$48.10. Nothing we can run away to Brazil with, but certainly enough to place more than a few games. Thanks again to Mike and everyone who helped with the auction. We are still waiting for our share of the DipCon money.

And what have we been doing?

BILL HIGHFIELD has come out with only one set of results since August. The players of 80IF voted to move their game; it is now run by Doug Beyerlein. 81HG has been announced as ending, but stats have been sent to the BNC. 80KW, 82CU, and 82HD are still moribund...a deadline in February has been set; after which these games will be considered orphaned and transferred.

PAT CONLON asked the orphan service to count votes from his players regarding moving his gunboat game. They voted unanimously to remain with Pat.

DAVE MARSHALL came out with a final issue, and asked us to place his games. 81CH will be run by Dan Stafford; 82CH and 82CP will move to Steve Langley; 83AC will go to either Conrad Von Metzke or Rod Walker. Thanks to Terry Tallman for his help with these games.

BOB HOWERTON has come out again after a long delay.

JOHN DALY wrote a great article about orphans in the latest Diplomacy World, reminding us all it is so easy to fold a zine responsibly.

We currently have a surplus of GMs willing to take orphans! That's certainly better than a surplus of orphans. However, one never knows if suddenly a whole crop of zines disappears once...if you would like to be on or off our list of GMs, let either of us know.

Have you anything to add, Dick???

I am sure I can come up with something....

DON SIGWALT hasn't been heard from in a long time, so it's a fairly safe bet that HOOF AND MOUTH is gone for semi-good. The only game he was running, 79KR has been rehoused to Robert Sacks. Another game, 81CX, has ended in a concession to France, but no endgame material has come out. I'll try to dig up what I can.

GREGG DICK has also been very slow lately, and I've received a complaint about it. He'll be getting a note in the mail asking what's going on, if he hasn't gotten it yet. Nothing concrete will happen with those games until at least the end of February.

BRIAN ALDEN, GM for 82E, hasn't been heard from for about a year. None of the players in the game have responded to my letters (even Terry Tallman, who told me who the rest of the players were!). I recommend that the game be abandoned. That's the last TSS game, finally accounted for. Close the books on that one.

Also, MY thanks to Mike Mills for running a very successful PDORA. I can certainly put the \$\$ to good use.

I'm also running several of the games myself, but have virtually NO standby players left to call. Any volunteers would be welcome. Thanks to Greg Ellis, the sole official standby of the US/OGP Orphan Service. Thanks, Greg!

JAN 13 1984

(11)

Scott & Frauke

To: PDORA recipients
From: GK, PDORA

re: distribution of funds from PDORA '83

Since the ZR has declined PDORA funds, the following levels of PDORA monies will be distributed to the following:

| | | |
|----------------|-----|----------|
| 1) The BNC | 40% | \$128.27 |
| 2) The MNC | 30% | \$96.21 |
| 3) Orphans | 15% | \$48.10 |
| 4) Pontevedria | 15% | \$48.10 |

The sums in the right-hand column represent the amount of money sent to the named Bureaus on January 2d, 1984. The amount of monies collected by today December 30th 1983 is \$320.68.

\$20.60 is still outstanding, and when it comes in the PDORA will split the monies, according to the above.

However, the PDORA has incurred costs for mailings, ie, donators who did not wish to pay the postage of large (ish) items, so that from the outstanding funds such costs will be deducted, though they will be small.

Enclosed is your cheque for the sum of 48.10/00.

In the interest of fairness and for generating a clean track-record for future PDORAs, would you kindly acknowledge receipt of your funds. That way, others will see that the PDORA is "legit" and will give them credible proof of the good PDORA can do.

publically

At this time, the PDORA '84 will be run jointly by Tom Mainardi, Tom Swider and me for a date somewhere before or after the summer of '84.

Thank you,

Mike

Michael Mills,
The Grand Kommissar, PDONA

| | |
|--|----------|
| FRAUKE PETERSEN 8/83 233 OAK GROVE, NO. 306 874-0082 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55403 | 926 |
| Jan. 16 1984 17-4/910 | |
| PAY TO THE ORDER OF <u>Dick Martin</u> | \$ 24.05 |
| Twenty-four and <u>.05</u> / <u>100's</u> DOLLARS | |
| F&M Marquette National Bank Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480 | |
| Do you take money from a feminist??? | |
| MEMO | |
| Frauke Petersen | |

If you send
it.... ↗

FILING SYSTEMS

*****(Lu Henry) I use legal size file folders myself, and for certain games where materials must be preserved over the life of the game, I favor the type with an internal divider, punching holes in the top of the "to-be-preserved" material and binding it into the folder with Acco fasteners. I also photocopy a copy of each turn's adjudication and preserve that for all games until the end; orders are disposed of one full game year after they come in. I do not keep other people's zines. At best, if an article of interest is present, I cut it out and file it in three ring binders, subdivided by game/topic. The front of the game folders is used for record keeping: names and addresses, phone numbers, game stats in the case of Dip, point totals in the case of other games toward victory conditions.

For the non-Dip games, reduced hex paper is very useful. Wooden Ships games with less than twenty or so ships, Air Force / Dauntless, Ironclads, Ironbottom Sound -- all of these are resolved from reduced hex paper and a number of colored pencils and/or Pilot Razor point pens. (Laundry bleach will act as a good ink eradicator in the case of the latter.) Also handy is PostIt note paper by 3M. They make a tape which has the post-it tack on the back. Making it double sided by running rubber cement on the uncoated surface and folding it over, I cut the stuff up into counter-size bits. The double tack then is sufficient to hold a counter on a vertically placed map. Doesn't damage the counter, even double-backed ones.

What do the computer types do when the power goes out, or worse when the computer goes down? But then, too, I feel I would be dead without carbon correctible ribbons on my Selectric.

((The bit about backing for counters sounds handy -- especially if you plan to leave a game set up for a while. And it doesn't bother the double-sided counters, even if left on for some time?))

*****(Ronald Brown) Fred's article on the secretarial supplies and skills was a good one. That's the sort of thing I look for in HOL. I would like to add a note about address labels though.

One can buy sheets (8½ x 11) of labels, either 30 or 33 per sheet. Addresses can be photocopied directly onto these sheets. Therefore, one only needs a master page laid out in exactly the same format. Corrections can be made on the master sheet. I found it easiest to retype the entire address on a label, then stick it over the original. After a while, every six months or so, there are so many corrections it's a good idea to retype the entire master page. In any case, get only one copy a week or so before the deadline, else you'll be spending too much time making corrections on the labels themselves.

What I do now that I have access to a Xerox 860 is store addresses in the format for the address labels, then print out directly onto these sheets. Thus, corrections can be made easily, using the editor function. Hit the print key, and there one is: freshly typed labels for a minimum of effort. One thing to keep in mind: though the printer I use is a very high priced professional model, I still cannot use the bottom row of labels, as it jams up. So, for the cheaper home models, one may have worse problems. Try before you invest the time. The first method I used, of creating master sheets for photocopying, should work for everyone.

On a related note, the US postal regulations require that mail for outside the country be in envelopes. Often it gets by, but every now and then a zeen is returned to the pubber "unacceptable for foreign mail" or some such. I use envelopes as a matter of course. Bought a thousand at a time, the price is negligible. Besides, one can stick on address labels and stick notes in envelopes before the deadline, thus getting one more task out of the way before the last minute rush. Sometimes I even stamp them before the deadline. That's something you can't do with the fold and staple method.

I too use Avery labels for corrections as Fred describes. However, I type the corrections on the labels before I glue them over the part I want corrected. I do the "Continued on page such and such" and photo captions, etc. the same way. However, I am a glue stick fan, as opposed to Scotch tape. I find it easiest to cut the material and glue it down on the master pages. Frees me to set up the format as needed, or even splice in material if necessary. I would need four hands to do the same thing with tape: two to hold the material exactly in place, and two to tape. If the glue is already on the back of the page, all you need is to line everything up then press down.

Regarding maps, I use macramé work boards. They are cheap and solid, and are just the right size to hold two maps per side. They hold pins well. In fact, I have never had a map pin fall out, even during moving. Ideal for variants too, as you rarely get a map big enough to accomodate wooden blocks. I've never been able to find genuine map pins, but sewing pins work very well. They come in packages of six or seven colors, but, by buying different brands you wind up with a good collection, as they are never the same colors or sizes. I can handle games with as many as twelve different countries now. To mark fleets, I wrap a small label around the pin shaft. I had to buy a lot when I first got into the hobby, but haven't had to add to my collection of sewing pins for years now. I store them in used cassette cases.

MORE ON...FILING SYSTEMS

((Used cassette cases, from cassette tapes? The tape boxes I have aren't any good for holding much of anything besides the tapes themselves. Or do you have different types of cassette boxes in Canada?)

((You can put two maps on either side of a board, pins and all, and don't have any problems? I would think that the pins would get caught and pull out.))

******(Larry Peery) Did you note how everyone in the hobby uses the same type of non-organized organization for their hobby stuff? Why doesn't somebody just admit it and come out and say we are all a bunch of sloppy pigs and be done with it!

I know, I know, and now John Caruso is going to blame me and XENO if his cat(s) get hemorrhoids.

How many walls do you think a Peerigon has? Now that is an important question.

I live in the Peace Room and the Living Room and out beside the pool, where any moral, normal southern Californian Dippy player would live.

Amazing what you can learn about people by the way they handle their paper flow.

((Paper flow? Whose paper flows? Mine oozes every now and then, but flow is too kind a word.)

((A Peerigon has exactly 6.23e sides. Didn't you know?))

******(Russell Sipe) Konrad Baumeister's description of his filing system was a delight to read. My filing system has certain similarities. I have structured my system after the American School of Oriental Research. That is, I find what I am looking for by carefully sifting through various strata or layers on my desk. Generally anything that must be dealt with within the week can be found somewhere on my main desk. Anything that can be put off for up to a month can be found on my second desk. Anything that is important enough to keep but not important enough to do anything about is stuck in a corner on the floor. The center of the floor is used as something of a sorting device. When digging through a particular layer on my desk, I have to be careful not to disturb the other items in the strata as everything is positioned in such a way as to have some meaning.

When I get up the nerve to actually scrap away all the layers and get down to the bedrock of the desktop, I have three options. I either file away the "finds," throw them away, or redeposit them somewhere on the desk thus starting a new cycle. Oh, by the way, I have a sign in my office that says, "This is not a mess, it is a wilderness of free association!".

((So this is the difference between how amateur and pro pubbers handle things. The pros put up clever signs! I know what you mean about the strata -- I use much the same strategy. I just make sure to shuffle things up every now and again to keep it interesting!))

******(Jim Bumpas) I use Text Wizard word processor and Filemanager 800+ data management system. They are both very convenient: quicker and easier to use than the moderating programs I've seen so far. I keep all individual game reports, game histories, supply center charts, ratings, and mailing lists. Text Wizard and Filemanager are compatible so that files from one may be used and/or edited by the other.

I only keep the current issue of the LIB on disk. I keep a file copy of each LIB, and I maintain files of all player mailings to me from the previous two issues. Beyond that, I throw them away. I have written the program which moderates the Libourse game. It automatically produces individual player reports to be returned to players each turn, and the game report which is printed in the LIB each issue. The player reports recapitulate the player's actions in the current turn and shows the results achieved by their actions. Players respond to twenty questions, as well as listing any currency or land trading they want to make in the current turn. In addition to the bourse module, players may also attack each other, and must make decisions about the economy. Players control expenditures for land, personal consumption, agriculture, military, industry, mining, communications, transportation, and utilities. Players also assign population to work in each category.

The program requires a 40k system, but there are no Atari dependent elements. The logic of the program could be easily translated to another system.

I have 48k in my Atari 800. This permits me to put about 20 pages of material into RAM at one time. But mostly I keep the files much shorter than that, since Text Wizard has an automatic chaining feature which will print multiple files in the order I choose without my having to attend the machine.

I also run a bulletin board for the half dozen or so subscribers to the LIB who have modems. They use it for electronic mail, sending me their turns by telephone and putting them directly into the Atari without me having to even open an envelope. As more players get into telecommunications, my job as

MORE ON...FILING SYSTEMS

moderator will become even easier. Soon, I will have over 800k of on-line data storage. This will permit me to put an entire issue of the LIB on the BBS and still have room for messages and other incoming data for the next issue I put out.

((It is handy to have two different programs that are compatible, in this age of incompatibility. Is the uncertain future of ATARI affecting the availability of programs, etc, for you? I'd love to get into the electronic aspect deeper, but I can't be sure the company will be willing/able to support my equipment. An unfortunate side to PBEM Dip, I think.))

******(Mark Matuschak) My filing system consists of a green plastic letter box measuring 9x12x11 inches. Inside is a manila envelope for each game. Since just about everything stays inside this green box, I feel sometimes like the president must with that fellow from the Marines and his black briefcase.

I do not file everything when turns start coming in, however. Basically, I just put everything in a pile somewhere. After a lot of turns have come in, I start organizing the pile by game, and make a list so I know whose moves have not yet arrived, checking them off as they do arrive.

After I have written up the game in TBB, I file the moves in their respective envelopes. For Dippy, I staple all the moves together and save them until well after the game is over. For 3R, I am more ruthless. Generally, I only save turns for 1 complete turn (2 months), or sometimes only 1 month. Players are supposed to notify me immediately (within a month) if something is wrong, but I usually save moves I think might be questioned for an extra month. This is a big improvement over the past, when everything got chucked out immediately after I'd finished writing up the game. I learned from hard experience that players will frequently question even their own moves (forgetting for a moment about my own mistakes), and the only way to deal with this is to have a copy of their moves.

For En Garde and Source of the Nile, I am even more ruthless. I still toss the moves immediately after writing up the game, unless they contain standing orders, etc. These games just generate too much paper for me to save them, and orders are less frequently questioned. And, unlike 3R, which is more precise, I can usually recreate in my mind what happened when a player doesn't understand what he did wrong.

As a whole, this system has worked pretty well. I also keep every old TBB, all game rules, house rules and other assorted junk in the green box. Someday when I move into a permanent place (probably next year when I finally start working and live in an apartment for more than 9 months), I will buy a metal file, or preferably, I'll steal one from home. About the only thing I can't keep in the green monster (not to be confused with Fenway's left field wall) are spare copies of old TBBs (these are now in my law school locker keeping my wiffle balls and bats and old exams company) and the games themselves.

Comments on Fred Davis's Consumer Guide: a very useful compilation, but I would question the endorsement of Roneo mimeos. As a five-year Speed-o-Print user, I am more happy with my machine, and I think supplies are considerably easier to come by for this (or for a Gestettner) than for Roneos. Probably the machine itself doesn't make that much difference. I'd advise prospective mimeo purchasers to go for the best deal they can. My own model is Speed-o-Print 600 (the "Liberator," they say).

As to address lists, I keep mine using index cards (3x5) in a plastic index card box, with alphabet symbols (therefore in alphabetical order). Thus I can locate an address or phone number very quickly, and can change addresses without too much trouble. I also keep other info on these cards, like expiration date of sub, games the person is in, and remaining NMR deposits, when they began subscribing, etc.

Anyway, back to mimeography. My SOP 600 has been working for me since August 1978 with no real problems, though it's beginning to show some signs of age. Here are some tips for those interested in this form of printing:

1. Find an office supply store convenient to you that carries or will carry the supplies you'll need. Different stencils fit different machines, and a store that will sell only Gestettner stencils won't do you a damn bit of good with a 4-hole SOP. I've been amazed at how difficult it is to procure these in NYC, though I finally got a local store to stock up for me. They'll also need to carry ink (best to use the same brand, but you can safely disregard the instructions that say "never mix" if necessary), mimeo paper by the case, and all the mimeo supplies.

2. Get a machine with an automatic counter. If you think this isn't important, just try without it. Most machines today come this way anyway.

3. Frequently re-ink the cylinder. Whenever the print gets light, be sure you have plenty of ink.

MORE ON...FILING SYSTEMS

4. Use a hard-striking typewriter. Another cause of light printing is a poor typewriter. Electrics are best, and heavy-duty ones are much preferable for this kind of repeated use. I've killed several portables already with TBB, and now I have an Olivetti Editor 4, a massive hunk of steel that practically gives me a hernia whenever I have to move it, but which has been almost indestructable.

5. Change the ink pad regularly, at least at 6 month intervals. After some practice, this becomes possible without turning every part of your body black. This is essential for good-quality printing.

6. If you have a brush cylinder, rotate it before printing so as to push the ink through the pad. Do this before every new page. If everything else is OK, after 1 sample page, you should be printing acceptable pages to send out.

7. Carefully straighten sheets that you are putting through again to print on the other side. You should also pay careful attention while the back side is being printed, and learn how to stop your machine immediately at minimum loss of front-printed pages.

If you do all these things, you should probably do OK. Using a mimeo is much more fun than having someone xerox the zine for you. It takes more time, but you have sort of a communing of spirit with Gutenberg and the rest of the pioneers in this field.

With 24 pages printed back-to-back, say 80 copies, it will take me about 1½ hours to run it off; 45 min. to collate. They must then be addressed by whatever method you use (storage and printing by computer or word processor is highly recommended if feasible). Mimeo's are big and enormously heavy. If your typewriter doesn't kill you, your mimeo will. But then, you won't have to worry if your roommate threatens (as mine frequently did last year) to throw it out seven floors to its demise, for I'm sure it would work perfectly afterwards. For those of you who complain about my frequent address changes over the past several years through law school and college, let me say it hasn't been fun for me either. Just remember that each time I move, I've got to haul this thing out, pack it, haul it in, and find somewhere to put it. At least 150 pounds, that's no small feat.

((Ah, but it is so much more convenient to find a new print shop than to carry a mimeo machine that weighs more than the engine in my car.... I was using a ditto machine for a while there, using different color stencils and paper. It got to looking OK after a while, but I prefer the legibility of a decent xerox. Does the size of the type matter for mimeo? I don't think this micron type would come out very well, if mimeo is anything like ditto. Good mimeo is as easy to read as anything else -- thanks for all the helpful hints. Whatever you do, DON'T lose that green box!))

*(Steve Langley) I noted that my filing system is the same as a couple others. I started with a pile of papers on a desk. This grew to a pile of papers on a desk and several piles on shelves of bookcases. Then I took on some additional gameloads and set up individual manila folders for each game. I keep a complete file of back issues of MAGUS for reference and keep old moves until the games have moved beyond going back. Personal correspondence and zines go into a "to be read" stack on receipt. I read letters and games first and the rest second. I write responses to everything as quickly as I can after it comes in (a day to a week) and move the item to the "to be filed" stack. "To be filed" is sorted once the stack starts to overflow into trash and a paper bag of old zines. I'm into my third paper bag now. Very recently I've started saving games that I'm playing in in separate manila folders too. The problem of changed plans in mid-season reared its head a few too many times. The search for the zine in the "to be filed" stack was okay until the time the zine didn't show.

Moves and MAGUS correspondence either get filed immediately or soon after immediately. They don't get filtered into the "to be filed" stack although they do visit the "to be read" stack.

((Another journey down the evolutionary path of filing systems. Funny, but they all start to sound like the way I do things after a while. Mustn't think like that though, because I might get depressed if I ever actually realize how disorganized we all seem to be. But that's half the charm, I suppose!))

((On the following two pages, we have our next topic of discussion. Out of the blue, I got these two articles on Dipcons, and what to do about them. So, in order to have some discussion on the matter before this summer's Dipcon rolls around, they are included in here. The topic doesn't really thrill me, but if you guys want to talk about it that badly, I'm game. Since I may farm this material out to a "guest editor," please try to put any comments on a separate sheet of paper so I can easily pass them along. I'm also a bit puzzled as to why you think HOL is the place for this discussion, but I think I can see your reasoning, and won't worry my pretty little head about it. My comments follow the articles.))

A DIPCON PROPOSAL - by Brad Wilson

Currently, DIPCON sites are chosen by a vote of the participants at the previous year's con. This is a good way to pick the site, as it is at once democratic and "elitist" (i.e., those most interested/informed make the pick). But the free choice of Dippers is limited by a set of geographical rules drawn up 10 years (or so) ago. I refer, of course, to the 4 regions the U.S. is divided into for con location sites.

The DIPCON charter divides the U.S. into four regions: the East Coast (I), the Midwest (II), the Great Plains & Texas (III), and the West Coast (IV). The problem that I see with this lies in the geographic distribution of U.S. Dippers. It is fair to say that the U.S. hobby is concentrated in three regions: the Northeast, the Upper Midwest (Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan), and California. The combination of these two facts means that once every four years, the DIPCON will be held far away from these centers of activity - when it is in Region III, like this year. Now, I realize there are many Dippers from both coasts who will travel to Dallas, but it is fair to say that many, many Dippers in New York, Illinois, and California won't make the trip. Can't make the trip, probably.

DIPCON and its organizers should serve the hobby, not some abstract geographical concept. The best way for it to do this is for DIPCON to be held where many Dippers live. Many Dippers, by the way, are young - between 13 and 23 years old - and for these people, travelling 1000 miles from home to attend DIPCON is often impossible, for financial and practical reasons.

Last year, even with DIPCON in the Midwest (Detroit), it was clear that a majority of the participants wanted the con to go to Virginia in 1984, and only mass confusion on the vote prevented this from happening. DIPCON should go to its participants; they shouldn't have to go 800-2000 miles out of their way just to serve an abstract "fairness" concept. I also don't buy the argument that Dippers come out of the woodwork wherever DIPCON is located. They come out where they already are - look at the number of novices, etc., that appeared in Baltimore in 1982. Mark Berch's con report printed a list of non-postal people he recognized from the '82 DIPCON - most from the East. Such a similar turnout did not occur in Detroit (except on a much smaller scale), and it won't in Dallas at all. DIPCON's presence doesn't create Dippers - it only attracts the Dippers already extant in the area.

To remedy the situation, I propose the following changes in the regions:

REGION I: West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, DC, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, New England, plus Atlantic Canada, Quebec, and the Toronto area.

REGION II: Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, and western Ontario.

REGION III: Everything else.

In addition, a bylaw should be added to absolutely prohibit any variance in the each-region-every-three-years formula.

This ensures that DIPCON, the major gathering of Dipdom in North America, will almost always be held near a major center of gaming activity. (I am assuming that REGION III's con would usually be in California.) This idea would make going to DIPCON more convenient for most Dippers every year, by having, say, 2 cons every 6 years in their area, as opposed to 2 cons every 8 years. Younger Dippers would also be more able to attend each year.

I realize that the plan is definitely not advantageous to Dippers in Kansas, Texas, etc. But I feel my plan follows a fundamental tenet of democracy - the greatest good for the greatest amount of people. What does everyone else say?

ALTERNATE PROPOSALS FOR DIPCONS - by Fred C. Davis

There was talk at DipCon XVI in Detroit of the possibility of having separate DipCons for the Eastern and Western parts of North America in future years. It is a known fact that very few people from the West Coast travel to a DipCon held in the East, and very few people from the East attend a DipCon held in the Far West. The costs of airline fares and the length of time required for driving effectively prevent most people from going from one coast to the other to attend a DipCon.

However, instead of talking about separate DipCons for the East and West, I'd like to suggest the concept of holding two DipCons each year, with no implication of segregation, at intervals far enough apart (say June and August) so that some people could attend both.

There would be no requirement that these Cons be attached to a larger wargaming Con. If some were attached to larger Cons, and some were purely for Diplomacy players, this would satisfy the desires of the people who prefer one arrangement over the other. There would be a territorial dividing line within which each DipCon would be held, but people could go to either or both, as they so choose. Both events would be co-ordinated by a single committee, with representatives from both areas, to insure that the Cons were not held any closer together in time than six weeks apart, and were physically separated by some minimum distance, say 500 miles.

MORE ON...DIPCON PROPOSALS

The Eastern DipCon would be held in any State east of the Mississippi River, plus Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Puerto Rico; or in any Canadian Province from Ontario eastward. (That's 29 States and six Provinces.) The Western DipCon would be held in any State west of the Mississippi, except the three listed above, and including Alaska and Hawaii; or in any Canadian Province from Manitoba west. (That's 21 States and four Provinces, but slightly more than half the land area of North America.)

Within each area, the DipCons would be rotated among the various areas where there are large concentrations of Postal and FTF players, or where traditions have established more or less permanent locations for the holding of such events. For example, assuming four-year rotations in both areas, the following rotations could be established, which would guarantee that the Con would be in a different part of the area each year:

| <u>EAST</u> | <u>WEST</u> |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Detroit (MichiCon) | 1. San Diego or L.A. (Peericon) |
| 2. N. Virginia (MaryCon) | 2. Dallas or Houston (DalCon + NanCon) |
| 3. Chicago (CWA Con?) | 3. San Francisco Area (PacifiCon?) |
| 4. New Jersey (EastCon) | 4. Wichita, Kans. (PudgeCon) |

The listed Cons are merely shown as examples, and are not meant to be all-inclusive or to indicate preferred events. Except for the Texas area, they are located in areas with large numbers of Postal players or where attendance at Diplomacy events has been good in the past. These areas will vary from time to time.

One interesting idea would be to make financial arrangements to guarantee that someone among the Top Three finishers from the first DipCon of the year got to attend the second DipCon at no cost to himself. However, I don't know whether the Diplomacy hobby has the financial strength to underwrite such a project.

((Two interesting and different proposals. Actually, I think that you both are taking "Dipcon" in the same overly serious manner as the people who attend it because it is The Great Tournament. Mainly, I see the whole of Dipcon as a convenient excuse for a bunch of postal players to get together once a year -- the actual tournament is a secondary, albeit important, factor. Whatever my feelings on the why of the matter, I do agree that the whole theory about how the con is handled can stand looking at. After all, not many Californians/west coasters make it out into the heartland of the East Coast Clique, and even fewer ECCers head out west. With the present setup, Dipcon could be held in the same place indefinitely without too great a struggle -- and that just doesn't seem right. If you'd like to know how, well, write in and I'll explain it in a future issue. Very simple, actually.

((Anyway, if you have any suggestions on the above two articles, send 'em in. Consider DIPCON to be our next topic. If you think you have a better plan, feel free to send that in and explain why. If you think that the present setup is just fine, I'd like to hear that, too, to counterbalance the forces for random change. There is no denying one thing -- Dipcon is an added boost for any tournament that it attaches itself to, is worth extra attendance, and therefore \$\$\$. Too bad the dippers don't often get to see much of it -- we didn't last year, anyway.

((In the meantime, I will talk to my assistant editor (possible) about running this discussion for me.

((Held over until next issue, due out as soon as I can get it typed and ready, are: POLLS, ETHICS, and THE DIPTAX, plus any new stuff that I get. I'd like to get this zeen on a bi-monthly schedule, even if every topic does not appear in every issue. We shall see.

((Our readers are, in no particular order:

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The deadline for material to be published in HOL#7 (that's the issue after next) is MARCH 31, 1984.
But please don't wait until then - I'll be glad to publish anything sent to me before then, space permitting,
in #6, which should be coming out sometime next month, work schedule permitting.

YOUR LAST ISSUE OF HOL IS SCHEDULED TO BE _____
THIS REFLECTS THE CHANGE IN SUB RATES (SEE PAGE 1)

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FIRST CLASS